

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 6-7 and 11-21 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Independent Claim 6 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of original Claim 8.

New Claims 11-14 are identical to, and thus supported by, original Claims 2-5, respectively, except that Claims 11-14 depend from Claim 6 rather than Claim 1.

New Claim 15 is original Claim 10 rewritten as an independent claim by incorporating therein all the limitations of original Claim 9. Original Claim 10 depended from Claim 9.

New Claims 16-17 are identical to, and thus supported by, original Claims 7-8, respectively, except that Claims 16-17 depend from Claim 15 rather than Claim 6. New Claims 18-21 are identical to, and thus supported by, original Claims 2-5, respectively, except that Claims 18-21 depend from Claim 15 rather than Claim 1.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter at Section No. 11 (page 4) of the Office Action. Specifically, Claim 8 is said to be allowable.

The subject matter of Claim 8 has been incorporated into Claim 6, such that Claim 6 and Claims 7 and 11-14, which depend from Claim 6, should be allowed. In addition, new Claim 17, which is identical to original Claim 8, except that it depends from new Claim 15, should also be allowed.

Referring to Section No. 4 of the Office Action, Applicants affirm their election of Group II, Claims 6-10.

Referring to Section No. 7 at page 3 of the Office Action, Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

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Applicants have amended Claim 7 to delete therefrom the recitation of "inner." Claim 7 therefore contains the proper antecedent basis and meets the requirements of §112. Withdrawal of the §112 rejection of Claim 7 is requested.

Referring to Section No. 10 at page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 6-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over SU 1534979 ("SU '979").

As stated above, the subject matter of allowable Claim 8 has been incorporated into Claim 6, such that Claim 6 and Claims 7 and 11-14, which depend from Claim 6, should be allowed.

As for Claims 9-10, as stated above, they have been canceled and combined as new independent Claim 15.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §102/§103 rejection as it applies to new Claim 15 (and Claims 16-21, which depend from Claim 15). The subject matter of new Claim 15 is not disclosed or suggested by SU '979.

Claim 15 is directed to a Raman amplifier or laser. Claim 15 requires the Raman amplifier or laser to comprise a pump source coupled to an optical fiber.

SU '979 does not disclose or suggest the Raman amplifier or laser of Claim 15. SU '979 also fails to disclose or suggest any benefit of using its glass compositions in a Raman system. At the time of the invention of SU '979 (1987), such benefits were certainly not known, and since then, no one in the art has considered the glass compositions of SU '979 for applications using Raman amplification.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102/§103 rejection as it applies to new Claims 15-21.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be

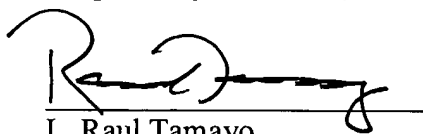
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best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Raul Tamayo", written over a horizontal line.

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